

## CLAIMS

1. A method for producing fermented milk, which comprises reducing a dissolved oxygen concentration in a mix of raw materials for fermented milk at the start of fermentation by substitution with an inert gas.

2. A method for producing fermented milk, which comprises reducing a dissolved oxygen concentration in a mix of raw materials for fermented milk at the start of fermentation by substitution with an inert gas, and carrying out fermentation at a fermentation temperature of from 30 to 37°C.

3. The method for producing fermented milk according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the dissolved oxygen concentration at the start of fermentation is 5 ppm or less.

4. A fermented milk produced by the method according to claim 2, or by the method according to claim 2, wherein the dissolved oxygen concentration in a mix of raw materials for fermented milk at the start of fermentation is 5 ppm or less.